**Draft decision on Affiliation of the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD) to the African Union Commission (AUC)**

**The Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment (STC-ARDWE),**

**TAKES NOTE** of the report of the fourth ordinary session of the African Ministerial Conference on Meteorology (AMCOMET) held in Cairo, Egypt on the 21st of February 2019 and its Cairo Declaration recognizing the pan African role of the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD) for generating and delivering high resolution climate data, products, training and capacity building for informed decision making by member states on weather, climate and disaster risk management issues;

**AWARE of** the consequences of climate change facing the continent including significant increases in losses and damages due to extreme weather and climate events (cyclones, floods, droughts, heat waves, etc), Africa's high dependence on natural resources which are vulnerable to climate change, direct threat posed by climate change to key socioeconomic sectors (agriculture and food security, biodiversity, disaster management, energy, health, infrastructure, peace and security, water, etc.) and inadequate deployment of appropriate multi-hazards early warning systems for adaptation to climate change and resilient sustainable development;

**TAKES NOTE** of the continental mandate of ACMAD, its mission as a weather and climate watch institution, a centre of excellence for meteorological applications for development and its designation by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), a United Nations (UN) specialized Agency, as a the African Regional Climate Centre covering the whole continent providing multi-hazards early warnings for disaster risk management, weather and climate information for policy, decision making and development planning and action;

**FURTHER TAKES NOTE** of the decision of AMCOMET requesting the African Union Commission (AUC), the AMCOMET Secretariat in collaboration with WMO to prepare the necessary documentation outlining the financial, legal and structural implications to enable AU organs to make an informed decision on ACMAD as the technical arm for meteorological and climate issues;

**APPRECIATES with satisfaction** the decision of AMCOMET for the AMCOMET Secretariat, the AUC in collaboration with WMO to prepare necessary documents on financial, legal and structural implications of the AU adopting ACMAD as its technical arm for meteorological and climate issues

**DECIDES** to affiliate the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD) to the African Union Commission;

**FURTHER DECIDES** that ACMAD shall be the technical arm of the African Union Commission and accorded the privileges and immunities specified in the OAU General Convention on Privileges and immunities;

**REQUESTS** AUC in collaboration with ACMAD Secretariat to elaborate and sign an agreement for affiliating ACMAD to AUC;

**FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission in collaboration with ACMAD and AMCOMET Secretariat to convene a meeting of relevant experts of member states to consider and adopt the affiliation agreement before the end of 2019;

**URGES** all African Member States to actively participate in the aforementioned process including making regular payment of their assessed contribution;

**CALLS UPON** weather, climate change, disaster risk management and development partners to support this endeavor of critical importance to peace, security and integrated , resilient socio-economic development of Africa;

**REQUESTS** AUC to report on the implementation of this decision to the next session of the STC.